

# Maror - The Bitter Herb

Contributed by [Machar Congregation](#)

Source: Machar Congregation

[Maror held up for all to see.]

## MAROR—Why do we eat maror?

Tradition says that this bitter herb is to remind us of the time of our slavery. We force ourselves to taste pain so that we may more readily value pleasure.

Scholars inform us that bitter herbs were eaten at spring festivals in ancient times. The sharpness of the taste awakened the senses and made the people feel at one with nature's revival. Thus, maror is the stimulus of life, reminding us that struggle is better than the complacent acceptance of injustice.

Leader:

As a blessing for the maror, let us all sing this song about striving to be fully human.

Then we will all take a taste of horseradish on a piece of matsah.

## LIH'YOT `ISH - TO BE FULLY HUMAN (Mishnah, Pirqei `Avot 2.6)

Ba-maqomshe-`ein`anashim, hishtaddel lih'yot `ish.

Where people are less than human, strive to be fully human.